Indo-Bangladesh border dispute

†1691. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several enclaves are existing at Indo-Bangladesh border due to border disputes between the two countries;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and total number of enclaves;

(c) the extent of land occupied by these enclaves;

(d) the number of enclaves out of them that are claimed to be in Indian authority and the efforts beign made to resolve this dispute; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh (Area: 17158.13 acres) and 51 Bangladesh enclaves in India (Area: 7110.02 acres). India has no administrative control or access to its enclaves in Bangladesh. Both Government have agreed to the exchange of enclaves in the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) in 1974. However, Article 3 of the 1974 LBA provides for the people in these enclaves being given the right to stay on as nationals of the State to which the enclaves are transferred. Therefore, the Government has requested for a joint survey/census of the enclaves. According to the Bangladesh side, however, joint survey/census in the enclaves is extraneous to the provisions of the LBA and they maintain that survey/census is not a pre-condition to the exchange of enclaves. Nevertheless, during the last Joint Boundary Working Groups meeting held in Dhaka on July 16-17, 2006, both sides agreed that a joint visit to the enclaves of both the countries would take place at an early date.

Putting of information on website

1692. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of each Central Act presently being administered by his Ministry or the department(s) thereunder, department-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.